



THE  
**bulletin**  
OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS  
a magazine of science and public affairs

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February 20, 1981

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York City, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have had the privilege since 1957 of serving as chairman of the Board of Sponsors for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. From its establishment in 1945, the Bulletin has been in the forefront of the movement to insure that nuclear weapons will be brought under effective international control and never again used for destructive purposes. Today, the acceleration of the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons to smaller nations, and the increasing hostility among nations makes the work of the Bulletin as urgent and difficult as ever.

Recently, in discussion with the Directors and the Editors, we agreed that the time has arrived to renew the commitment of the scientific community to the Bulletin and to enlarge and broaden its base of support. As chairman, I am writing to colleagues in many countries to enlist their support. Although the Sponsors are not expected to participate in management, fund raising or editorial activities, they may whenever they wish advise on editorial policies and issues. More importantly, the Board of Sponsors symbolizes the concern and the commitment of the scientific community to a peaceful, just and rational world.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I am pleased to invite you to become a Sponsor. Outside of our own scientific research, I believe we have no greater responsibility than the promotion of rationality and peace.

Hoping for your favorable response, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Hans A. Bethe*

Hans Bethe  
Chairman, the Board of Sponsors

Enclosures: List of Founding Sponsors  
By-Laws of the Educational Foundation  
History and Current Status of the Bulletin  
January and February 1981 issues

FROM 1949 -- Members of the Educational Foundation for Nuclear Science and  
Sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

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Professor Hans Bethe has sent invitations to the following individuals.

David Baltimore  
Paul Berg  
Joshua Lederberg  
Marvin Goldberger  
Murray Gell Mann  
Stephen Weinberg  
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James Cronin  
Leon Lederman  
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Max Delbrück  
Leon Cooper  
Ryogo Kubo

## Historical Briefs and Current Status

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was founded in December 1945 to give expression to the concerns of the scientists, just emerging from the wartime laboratories of the Manhattan Project, with the lack of public understanding of atomic weapons and the potential threat to society. The magazine was started, by Eugene Rabinowitch and Hyman H. Goldsmith, as a six-page newsletter of the Atomic Scientists of Chicago. It was supported in its first years by the Emergency Committee headed by Dr. Albert Einstein.

In 1949, the Bulletin became independent of the Atomic Scientists of Chicago (by then a branch of the Federation of American Scientists). A Board of Sponsors was established to form the Educational Foundation for Nuclear Science, incorporated in the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit foundation. The Foundation became the publisher of the magazine.

Over thirty-five years, the magazine's circulation has ranged from 15,000 to 35,000. Today there are 22,000 individual subscriptions and 7,000 library subscriptions. Although the number of international subscriptions are only 1800, the articles in each issue are given considerable attention by the international press. At the present time, the Editors and Directors are exploring the prospects for an overseas edition.

The Bulletin has achieved a rather remarkable financial stability over the last few years. Income in 1980 came within \$7000.00 of covering all expenses (including staff salaries, production and printing, circulation and fulfillment). The Albert Einstein Fund has provided from \$25,000 to \$30,000 each year for editorial enrichment. In 1981, the Sloan Foundation has made available a grant to the Editor which will cover the salary of a part time associate and travel costs. The Editor will visit universities and research centers in the United States and abroad to discuss editorial priorities and to identify scientists and scholars for a broadening of the magazine's contributors and supporters.

The purposes of the Bulletin as formulated in 1945 continue to guide the editorial direction of the magazine. They are

1. To permit scientists to discuss and clarify for themselves the social and political implications of scientific discoveries, and to define their responsibilities in helping to preserve peace and utilize scientific programs for the benefit, rather than the destruction, of mankind.
2. To provide policy-makers and public leaders with the resource materials they need for arriving at sound decisions on the social and political implications of science, and to give intelligent lay readers the authoritative information on scientific development in relation to society.

EXCERPTS FROM THE BY-LAWS OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR NUCLEAR SCIENCE

ARTICLE III -- Members

Section 1. Members. The following persons shall be the members of the corporation as of 1949: Samuel K. Allison, Robert F. Bacher, Hans A. Bethe, Detlev W. Bronk, A.H. Compton, E.U. Condon, F. Daniels, Albert Einstein, James Franck, Bentley Glass, S.A. Goudsmit, T.R. Hogness, F.W. Loomis, Philip M. Morse, H.J. Muller, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Linus Pauling, G.B. Pegram, I.I. Rabi, Julian Schwinger, Frederick Seitz, John A. Simpson, Cyril S. Smith, Leo Szilard, Edward Teller, Harold C. Urey, V.F. Weisskopf, Hugh C. Wolfe, Sewall Wright, J.R. Zacharias.

Section 2. Selection of Additional Members. All persons who can contribute to furthering the purposes of the corporation shall be eligible for membership. Any member of the corporation may propose to the Board of Directors the selection of any qualified person for membership. If the Board approves the proposed new member, it shall transmit its recommendation in writing to all the members. Unless more than one-fourth of all the members object in writing within thirty days from the date of the communication, the Board of Directors shall appoint the person to membership.

Section 3. Rights of Members. Any member in good standing shall be entitled to present any proper matter to the Board of Directors for consideration. All such presentation to the Board of Directors shall be channelled through the President.

The members may be requested by the Board of Directors for advice concerning the affairs of the corporation.

Section 5. Members as Sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Each member shall be a Sponsor of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the Sponsors collectively shall be called the Board of Sponsors.

ARTICLE V -- Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Chairman of the Board of Directors, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Powers and Duties. The President shall be the titular head of the corporation, shall be the Chairman of the Board of Sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and shall advise and consult with the Board of Directors when requested to do so by the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Vice-President shall be the Vice Chairman of the Board of Sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and shall serve as President in the event that the President is incapacitated or unable to perform his functions.

ARTICLE IX -- Dues

The membership of the corporation shall not be required to pay dues or membership fees.

Complete Text of the By-Laws available  
upon request.